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of end
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Fallujah

A first hand
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Avalanche Control

Cannons used
to protect

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Pentagon CHANNEL

Tune in
on cable
Channel 80

Check out the
Marine Corps
Web site:

<http://www.usmc.mil>

or the MCLB
Barstow Web site at:

<https://www.bam.usmc.mil/>



Photo by Curt Lambert

Maj. Gen. Willie Williams, commanding general, Logistics Command, delivers a State of the Command Address during the LOGCOM commander's conference Tuesday at the Oasis Club. Williams talked about strategic and operational level issues during the address.

Ramadi's new mayor takes charge of reconstruction

By Cpl. Paul Robbins Jr.
Combat Correspondent

AR RAMADI, Iraq - The city of Ramadi has long needed strong leadership to make bigger steps in its reconstruction, and that leadership arrived recently in the form of a new mayor.

Latif Obaid Ayadah was appointed as Mayor of Ramadi in early January, filling a void in city leadership that had been abandoned for many months.

Hand picked by the Governor of Al Anbar, Mayor Latif has brought legitimacy to the city government with a strong work ethic and demand for results.

"The leaders of Al Anbar have been looking for a qualified person for quite some time," said Maj. Scott J. Kish, 38-year-old civil affairs team leader for 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. "(Mayor Latif) is someone every-

one could agree to and approve of."

The appointment of Mayor Latif had an immediate affect on the city's government, bringing back multiple key leaders.

Prior to Mayor Latif's arrival, the city had only three active city directors, who supervised Ramadi's water, electricity and sewage.

Since his arrival, the number of directors has doubled as the directors of municipality, civil defense and industry returned to work with Mayor Latif, said Kish, a native of Sterling, Virg.

"For months we've said that all of the city's situations would improve with a strong mayor to hold the people accountable," said Kish. "In the short time he has been in office, that has been happening."

Mayor Latif has met with city leaders and Coalition Forces on

many occasions during his first month, voicing concerns for a variety of issues on the city's reconstruction.

As the legitimate leader of Ramadi, Mayor Latif is now responsible for the review of all projects and contracts to rebuild the city.

"He will provide a sounding board for all reconstruction projects in Ramadi," said Kish. "Nothing will be approved unless endorsed by the mayor."

Mayor Latif hopes to use the reconstruction projects for the city to increase employment for the residents of Ramadi.

With a focus on spreading the work throughout the city, Mayor Latif will increase the people's involvement in their own future.

"I want to give the work to those who have come forward to help secure our city," said Mayor Latif. "We don't want to concen-

trate on certain individuals, but spread the work to involve more of the people."

Although much of his focus will be on reconstruction efforts, Mayor Latif recognizes security as a vital factor in the city's success.

The growth of Ramadi's police force is the mayor's top goal for the near future.

"I hope for the return of all the police to the city for its security, because reconstruction cannot happen without it," said Mayor Latif.

Although not to full strength, the Ramadi police force has seen a significant rise in numbers over the last few months.

The support of local tribes has led to the recruitment of hundreds of local residents hoping to help the security situation in their



Comments, questions or concerns filed with the base Interactive Customer Service Evaluation system are automatically routed to the service provider, and the service provider can respond directly. To access the ICE Web site, visit the MCLB Barstow Web site located at: www.mclbonline.barstow.usmc.mil and click the ICE logo.

This weeks' ICE Article is yet another shining example of excellent service. The customers' needs were not only met, but expectations exceeded. Keep up the great job.

Customer Comments:

While working overtime Feb. 3, a co-worker and I had some computer problems which stopped our planned work. We requested help about four times for two different computers. **Debbie Wise** provided quick and efficient service and maintained

a very refreshing and positive attitude. Debbie fixed our problems which allowed us to continue our planned work.

We wish to express our sincere thanks for the excellent service provided by **Betty Roberts**. She has consistently proven to be an important asset to the tenets of MCLB Barstow base housing. On Jan. 17, Roberts went above and beyond to make sure the tenets that were affected by the power outage had reservations if needed as a back up plan. Her dedication for taking care of families proves that she understands the

needs and concerns of the families in housing.

I would like to extend my gratitude to **Staff Sgt. Thaniya Coleman** for all of her help with the VTC lines. She is a professional in every aspect and I truly enjoy working with her. Thank you.

I would like to thank **Richard Green and Lisa** (Office Depot) for their help in expediting our office supply order and resolving the issues that were preventing this order from being filled. Thank you both for taking the time to help.

Chaplain's Corner

Lesson from the 332nd fighter group

By **Lt. Tavis Long**
Base Chaplain

This year we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. Many have called those who defended democracy around the world at that time "The Greatest Generation." But, even amongst the greats there are those who are the greatest of the greats. Such are the brave men of the 332nd Fighter Group.

The 332nd was the compilation of the 101st, the 301st, and the 302nd Fighter Squadrons, and were responsible for escorting Allied bombers into location to route out the Nazi regime. In order to identify themselves to each other in the squadron, as well as their Allied counterparts, the 332nd painted the tails of their aircraft red, thus giving them the name "The Fighting Red Tails."

Originally, the Red Tails were to be just an "experiment," and the creation of the fighter group was to be confidential. The confidentiality was to be maintained because the squadron was made up entirely with black pilots who were being "tested" to see if they could be used in combat.

While the United States of America was fighting Nazism, fascism, and racial

discrimination in Europe, they were "sweeping under the rug" the blemishes of discrimination on the home front.

The blacks in America were shunned from certain places in public, had to eat in different restaurants than whites, and could not hold certain jobs. But, when World War II broke out, the blacks banded together to do their part in defending a nation that rarely defended them; and they did it without complaint or reservation.

In spite of the protests of many in the military and others in the civilian sector, 992 pilots reported to an all-black flight training facility in Tuskegee, Alabama. Another 10,000 blacks went to Chanute Field in Illinois to learn aircraft maintenance. While only 445 of the pilots made it into combat, by the war's end, all of the famous Tuskegee Airmen as they were known, were men of distinction, bravery, and loyalty.

Those of the 332nd were not allowed to associate with their white colleagues,



See **CHAPLAIN** Page 10

Chapel Services

Catholic Mass
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
505 E. Mt. View Barstow
Sundays, 7:30 a.m. Misa En Espanol
9:30 - 11:30 a.m. English

Protestant Services
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Jewish Services
Call 252-0148
for more information

Just did my job ...



Photo by Curt Lambert

Master Sgt. James E. Seifert, outgoing staff noncommissioned officer in charge, technical assistance team and PAXMAN main propulsion diesel engine program, spends time with friends during a retirement party at the Maintenance Center. Seifert spent 24 years in the Marine Corps, and was stationed here from April 2002 to February 2007.

Barstow Log

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
Colonel Kenneth D. Enzor, Commanding Officer

Public Affairs Staff

Public Affairs Officer: Bill Bokholt
Public Affairs Chief: Gunnery Sgt. Shay Richardson
Public Affairs Specialist: Rob L. Jackson
Barstow Log Editor: Cpl. Nich R. Babb
Combat Correspondent: Cpl. Quentin Grogan
Combat Correspondent: Lance Cpl. Josh Carmona

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For information on advertising in **BARSTOW LOG**, contact Paul Kinison of Aerotech News, phone: (661) 945-5634.

News Briefs

Street Paving



Due to compaction testing failure, Nebo's Boll Avenue will be reground and recapped in March. Furthermore, all asphalt street paving will be delayed until mid-March due to current questionable cold temperatures; this includes Yermo's 12th Street.

For questions or concerns, contact the Public Works Officer, Capt. Teddy Gilmore, at 577-6369.

Leave Sharing Program

Krista Perez, Amaris Kanteena and Danny Huff, Maintenance Center, and Jacqueline L. Fadeley, Special Staff Offices, have been affected by medical emergencies.

Anyone desiring to donate leave under the Leave Sharing Program may obtain a leave donor application through their department administrative office.

To donate or for more information, contact Margo Padilla at 577-7138 or Johnnie Curtis at 577-6734. For Huff, contact Lorinda Rognlie at 577-7099.

Aspiring Leader Program

Applications are now being accepted for the USDA Aspiring Leader Program.

The program is open to all GS-5-7 employees, or equivalent (to include Wage Grade and NAF). This is a great opportunity for civilians to develop their leadership skills. Applicants do not have to be in the Civilian Career Leadership Development Program to apply.

Application packages are due to the Business Performance Office, by March 5.

For more information, contact Lisa Akers at 577-6658 or Tina Lincourt at 577-6618.

New Leader Program

Applications are now being accepted for the USDA New Leader Program.

The program is open to all GS-7-11 or equivalent (to include Wage Grade and NAF). This is a great opportunity for civilians to develop their leadership skills. Applicants do not have to be in the Civilian Career Leadership Development Program to apply.

Application packages are due to the Business Performance Office, by Wednesday.

For more information, contact Lisa Akers at 577-6658 or Tina Lincourt at 577-6618.

Railroad Repairs

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad will be conducting maintenance, repair, and construction on the rail tunnels and crossovers to the Tees 'n' Trees golf course.

There are three entrances: A corrugated metal tunnel at the northwest corner, a wooden trestle tunnel at the northeast end and a paved crossover located approximately a half-mile east of the Nebo back gate. It is planned that the west side metal corrugated tunnel will be closed for four weeks starting March 12.

Vehicles will be detoured to the east side of Nebo for passage to the golf course area.

For questions or concerns, contact the Public Works Officer, Capt. Teddy Gilmore, at 577-6369.

Oasis Club Closure

The Oasis Club will be closed for repairs from Tuesday to March 3.

Saturday and Sunday brunches will be served at the Family Restaurant Feb. 24 and 25, and March 3 and 4.

Family Dining Nights for Feb. 22 and March 1 will also be served at the Family Restaurant.

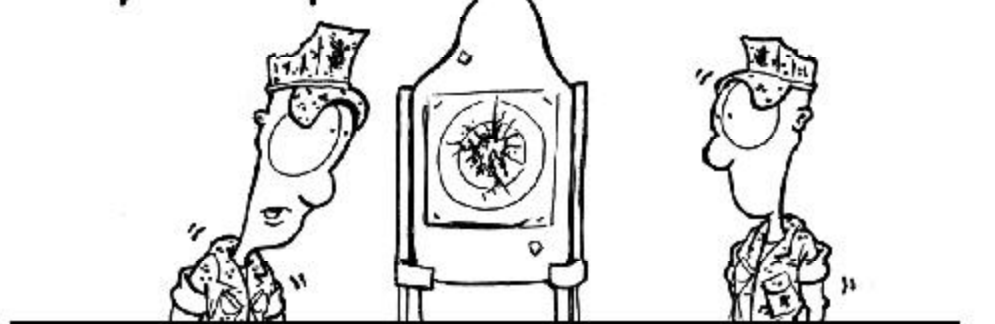
For more information, call 577-6428.

VA Test Reimbursement
The United States Department

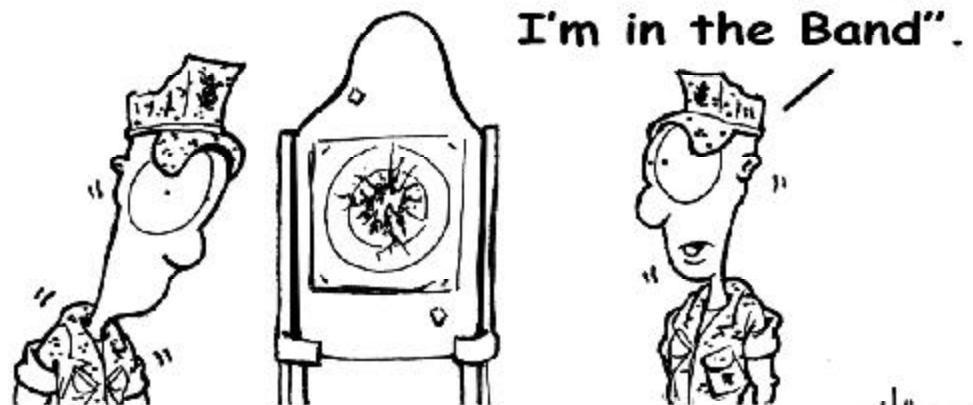
Sempertoons

Created by Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf
USMC Active

"WHOOAH...!,
Are you a sniper?"



"Actually...,
I'm in the Band".



www.sempertoons.com

of Veterans Affairs is now reimbursing required test fees.

Section 106 of PL 108-454 allows the VA to reimburse claimants for the fee charged for national tests for admission to institutions of higher learning and national tests that provide opportunities for course credit at institutions of higher learning. The VA has no authority to reimburse a person for any optional costs related to the testing process.

Currently the only approved tests are:

- SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)
- LSAT (Law School Admission Test)
- GRE (Graduate Record Exam)
- GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test)
- AP (Advanced Placement Exam)
- CLEP (College-Level Examination Program)
- ACT (American College Testing Program)
- DAT (Dental Admissions Test)
- MAT (Miller Analogies Test)

• MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test)

• OAT (Optometry Admissions Testing)

• PCAT (Pharmacy College Admissions Test)

• TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)

• DSST (DANTES Subject Standardized Tests)

Every applicant for reimbursement for a national test must have filed an original application for Chapter 30, 32 (or sec.903) or 35 at some point and have been found eligible. The best way to claim the benefit is to submit a copy of your results and a signed VA Form 21-4138, Statement in Support of Claim, stating that you are requesting reimbursement for the cost of a national test. Visit www.va.gov for more information.

For on base test eligibility call the Lifelong Learning Education Center at 577-6118.

Women's Soccer Team

The All-Marine women's soccer team trials will be held Apr. 29 through May 17 at Marine

Corps Air Station New River, N.C.

Marines interested in trying out must submit a sports application to Headquarters Marine Corps Semper Fit Division no later than Apr. 1. Applications must include past soccer experience and tournaments played in the last two years, and can be found at the base semper fit office.

For more information, contact James Amos at 577-6812.

Tax Returns

Taxpayers will have until April 17 to file their 2006 tax returns, as well as make payments for any taxes due this year.

Editor's Note

"News Briefs" are designed to disseminate information to the MCLB Barstow community. Any submissions to be used in the paper should be received Fridays by noon for the following week's issue. Submit briefs via e-mail to BSTW_PAOLIST@usmc.mil.

CMC's word on Marine Corps end strength

By **Gen. James T. Conway**
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Marines, as many of you know, the president has approved our request for the Marine Corps to grow from its current end strength of 175,000 Marines to 202,000. I want to pass on why this is important to our Corps and what this increase means for us.

The current operational tempo of the long war has resulted in a strain on our Marines and on the Corps as an institution.

While the morale of our Marines remains high, I am nevertheless concerned with the stress of multiple deployments on our Marines and their families.

The second effect of this high optempo is that it challenges the essence of our Marine Corps. By this, I

mean that our Corps has significantly less opportunity to train for other missions to fulfill our congressionally-mandated mission to be "the nation's shock troops."

An active duty component end strength of 202,000 Marines will go a long way toward reducing the strain both on individual Marines and on our institution.

Make no mistake, this request for an end strength increase is separate from, indeed it pre-dates, the pending plus-up operation in Iraq.

If this end strength increase is supported by Congress, our first task will be to build three new infantry battalions and the required supporting structure - approximately 4,000 Marines.

We will then grow by approximately 5,000 Marines per year.

This end strength will do more than

just add the much needed infantry battalions - we will balance the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) and reduce the strain on military occupational specialties that are experiencing a 1:1 deployment-to-dwell ratio or less.

These include rotary wing squadrons, military police, intelligence units, engineers, and other combat support and combat service support fields.

In growing our Corps, we plan to gradually lengthen our dwell periods, so that our Marine Corps will continue to be the two-fisted force our nation expects: equally adept at counterinsurgency as well as full spectrum operations. It will also allow Marines to spend more time with their families.

Our goal is to achieve a 1:2 deployment-to-dwell ratio for active component units and 1:5 for reserve units.

Since over 70 percent of the proposed Marine Corps end strength increase will consist of first-term Marines, we are making plans that will enhance our recruiting and retention.



Gen. James T. Conway

Marines, this is an important time in history to serve our country. Many of you joined the Corps after our nation was already at war; you joined expecting to go into harm's way and have shouldered that duty with courage and determination.

You are a special breed of America's warriors and I salute your stalwart service and sacrifice.
Semper Fidelis.

Supply Marine tells tales of duty in Fallujah

By Cpl. Quentin Grogan
Combat Correspondent

Over the past four years, Marines have found themselves in Iraq fighting against Saddam Hussein's military, insurgents, and anyone else willing to oppose the United States. One particular engagement that remains in the minds of both Marines and Americans is the battle for Fallujah.

For one Barstow Marine, Fallujah was an experience he got first hand, twice.

Cpl. Jose Muniz, supply warehouseman, was deployed to Iraq twice, and both times he found himself in Fallujah.

The first time in Fallujah was during Operation Iraqi Freedom II in 2004. At that time he was a lance corporal with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division providing security for the

Command Operation Center on the east side of the city along with 15 other Marines in his security platoon.

Their mission was simple, secure the COC, observe anything out of the ordinary and report it.

At that point, the battalion had taken over the city for the most part; it was now a house-to-house fight.

"Four or five firefights broke out while I was there," said Muniz. "I just caught some crossfire."

This was the first time Muniz had seen combat.

"I had a sergeant and a corporal with me the first time I was shot at," said Muniz. "I didn't know what to do because it was my first time in combat."

However, he did as he was trained. He called in the rifle fire and that was all he could do.

During this time, the city was constantly bombarded with rockets and mortars as our tanks were operating in the city to counteract those attacks and provide support for the troops on the ground, said Muniz.

The entire time, Muniz was hoping that the other Marines were doing alright.

As for the opposition, Muniz had some choice words for them.

"I would call them cowardly just because they used a Mosque to shoot at Marines," said Muniz. "Our (rules of engagement) were to not shoot at mosques, and those guys just stayed in there and shot at us."

The insurgents in the city never fought the Marines face to face, said Muniz, it was all pop shots.

"I thought we were there to fight a war, instead it was like fighting little kids with rocks," he said.

"Seeing that and being over

See **FALLUJAH** Page 11



Photo courtesy of Cpl. Jose Muniz

As part of the training for the Iraqi Army, Marines and Iraqi Soldiers patrol an area of Fallujah. During Muniz's second tour there, his unit trained the Iraqis to take over for the Marines.

Former D.I. has reunion with his former recruit

By Cpl. Quentin Grogan
Combat Correspondent

The primary job of a drill instructor is to train raw recruits to be Marines. After the training is complete, the drill instructor goes on to train another platoon as the recruit goes on to the fleet.

But for two Marines, a former drill instructor and his recruit, a reunion was the last

thing they had in mind, especially in Barstow.

When Chief Warrant Officer Jason Blanding, program manager, AN/TPQ-46 Firefinder radar system for the Maintenance Center, checked into Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow June 26, 2006, one of the first Marines he came across was the base sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Richard Rush, senior drill

instructor Rush of 15 years ago.

When Blanding saw Rush he went up and introduced himself, and Rush remembered him, not as a chief warrant officer, but

as a recruit.

"You never forget your recruits," said Rush.

This is the second time Rush has come across one of his former recruits since leaving the drill field, but the first time he has had a working relationship with one. As for Blanding, he met one of his other drill instructors briefly as a lance corporal.

Rush was on the drill field from October 1990 to May 1993, during this time, Blanding came fresh off the streets of Binghamton, NY, to Parris Island April 23, 1991.

"When the sergeant major was on deck, it was a relief," said Blanding in reference to his experience in boot camp.

Throughout his time in recruit training in platoon 2074, Rush's third platoon as a drill instructor, Blanding spent a good amount of time on the

quarter deck because he stood out due to his size, said Rush, who during Blanding's platoon was a staff sergeant. When Rush came on deck, Blanding got a chance to get off the quarter deck.

"He was a good recruit though, no doubt," said Rush.

After being in the Marine Corps for nearly 16 years, Blanding credits most of his success in the Marine Corps to Rush.

As a drill instructor, Rush gave Blanding the opportunity to reach this point of his career and to get promoted to chief warrant officer, said Blanding.

"He gave me the tools and laid the foundation, allowing me to make the best with what I had," said Blanding about the affect Rush had on his career in the Marine Corps.

"When you think about it, your drill instructors are

untouchable, they are on a pedestal. They are what you want to be," said Blanding.

Getting this chance to meet each other again and serve with each other on the same base came as a shock to both of them.

"I looked forward to this, but I never thought it would happen," said Rush.

During the interview, Rush gave Blanding a sergeant major chevron he had worn. Blanding wanted a chevron from Rush as a reminder for the rest of his life of who made him a Marine.

Following that, Blanding said "This is the man that made me a Marine."

Fifteen years after they were drill instructor and recruit, "sir" and want to be Marine, know it all and know nothing at all, they are now sergeant major and chief warrant officer.



Staff Sgt. Richard Rush



Rct. Jason Blanding

U.S.-Indonesian relationship progress encourages Pace

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

JAKARTA, Indonesia – The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said he came out of meetings with Indonesian leaders today encouraged by the military-to-military progress the two countries are making.

Gen. Peter Pace arrived here this morning from Australia as part of a week-long trip to the region.

"I came to discuss how our two countries can cooperate and serve both our countries better, and how we might

be better partners in the future," Pace said during a news conference following his meetings.

The chairman met with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono and Air Chief Marshal Djoko Suyanto, the commander in chief of the National Defense Forces. His meeting with Yudhoyono was supposed to have lasted 30 minutes; it stretched to an hour.

The president and chairman discussed a full range of items, including more Indonesian officers and noncom-

missioned officers attending U.S. professional military education programs. They also discussed Iraq, regional issues and joint training opportunities, as well as Indonesia's contribution to the peace process in the Middle East.

Indonesia has 800 soldiers in Lebanon under U.N. mandate, "helping that country and region find its way to peace," Pace said.

Pace said military training was a point in all his meetings in the Indonesian capital.

He said the United States would like more Indonesian officers to attend U.S.

military schools. "The more international students in school, the broader the dialogue and the better the experience (for all)," he said.

The military leaders also spoke of the possibility of some U.S. servicemembers coming to Indonesia to participate in training.

"All this builds the trust and confidence between the nations and helps both understand how each other operates," he said.

The International Military Training

See **INDONESIA** Page 11

Presidents' Day a time for all presidents to be remembered

By Cpl. Nich R. Babb
Combat Correspondent

For those who work, every year they enjoy a day off for the observance of Presidents' Day, but few really know why it even exists.

George Washington, the first president of the United States, was born Feb. 22, 1732. Due to all of the things he was able to accomplish not only for himself,

but for the United States, people around the country started celebrating his birthday in 1796, the last full year of his presidency.

It was not until 1885 though that Washington's Birthday would be celebrated as a holiday among all federal offices. At that time it was just known as Washington's Birthday.

However, in some states during the latter part of the 1800s, another former U.S. president's

birthday was celebrated annually.

It was Abraham Lincoln, who was born Feb. 12, 1809. It was because of his accomplishments as president that people celebrated his birthday too.

Finally, in 1968, the U.S. congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill that would make the third Monday of February a federal holiday to celebrate Washington's Birthday.

Some places still had separate celebrations for Lincoln each year though.

Finally, in the late 1980's, companies were looking to capitalize on the marketing value of the holiday weekend, and pushed to get the February holiday's name changed to Presidents' Day. In addition, Feb. 22 never fell on the third Monday of February.

Presidents' Day was originally started as a way to cel-

brate George Washington's Birthday, but with the popularity of Abraham Lincoln and the U.S. Congress's decision to have Washington's Birthday observed on the third Monday of February, it left the door open to change the holiday to a time for all U.S. Presidents.

Editor's Note: Information for this story was taken from patriotism.org/presidents_day and wikipedia.org.

VPP passes guidance on Lockout/Tagout safety

Submitted by VPP Sub-Committee
Management and Employee Involvement

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, "Lockout/Tagout refers to specific practices and procedures to safeguard employees from the accidental or startup of machinery and equipment, or the release of hazardous energy during service or maintenance activities.

This requires that a designated individual turn off and disconnect the machinery or equipment from its energy source(s) before performing service or maintenance, and that the authorized employee(s) either lock or tag the energy-isolating device(s) to prevent the release of hazardous energy and take steps to verify that the energy has been isolated effectively."

The following references provide information about the LOTO process.

"Lockout/Tagout refers to specific practices and procedures to safeguard employees..."

- OSHA

LOTO applies to all personnel aboard Base, which consist of two groups. The first group is defined as "Authorized Workers," according to Base Order P5100.11G. An authorized worker is one who locks out or implements a tagout system procedure on machines or equipment to perform service or maintenance on that machine or equipment.

"Affected Workers" - the second group - are persons whose job requires operating or using a machine or equipment on which service or maintenance is being performed under lockout or tagout, or whose job requires working in an area in which such service or maintenance is being performed.

An authorized worker and an affected worker may be the same person when the affected worker's duties also include performing maintenance or service on a machine or equipment that must be locked or tagged out.

All other employees must adhere strictly to the LOTO procedures and may not perform a LOTO should they encounter machinery in need of repair.

When unauthorized personnel try to perform the procedure, a potential hazard arises: the LOTO is not being tracked and the technician will not be able to access the machinery to conduct repairs. The technician that performs the LOTO will be the only person in possession of the key to conduct repairs. The only action that a non-authorized individual may carry out is to place an "Out of Service" sign on the machine in need of service. Once I&L has been notified of the requested maintenance, then one of the authorized personnel will go to the site to perform LOTO on the broken machinery.

Aboard MCLB, strides toward continuous process improvement are made to maintain safety. In a fiscal year 2006 audit, the I&L analysis advised that arc flashes can cause death and severe burns.

A flash hazard analysis took place per



National Fire Protection Agency 70E to determine hazard risk categories of equipment aboard the installation. The results will inform qualified workers of the number of layers of fire resistant personal protective equipment he or she will need to wear when attempting to conduct repair procedures on certain machinery. This effort, among many, is what MCLB is doing to ensure the safest possible working environment.

When working with any electrical device, safety should be at the forefront of our minds. If you have any questions about Lockout/Tagout, please call Base Safety at 577-6949. Just remember, when in doubt - call I&L for a Lockout/Tagout.



Photo courtesy of the Alaska's Department of Transportation



Photo by Curt Lambert

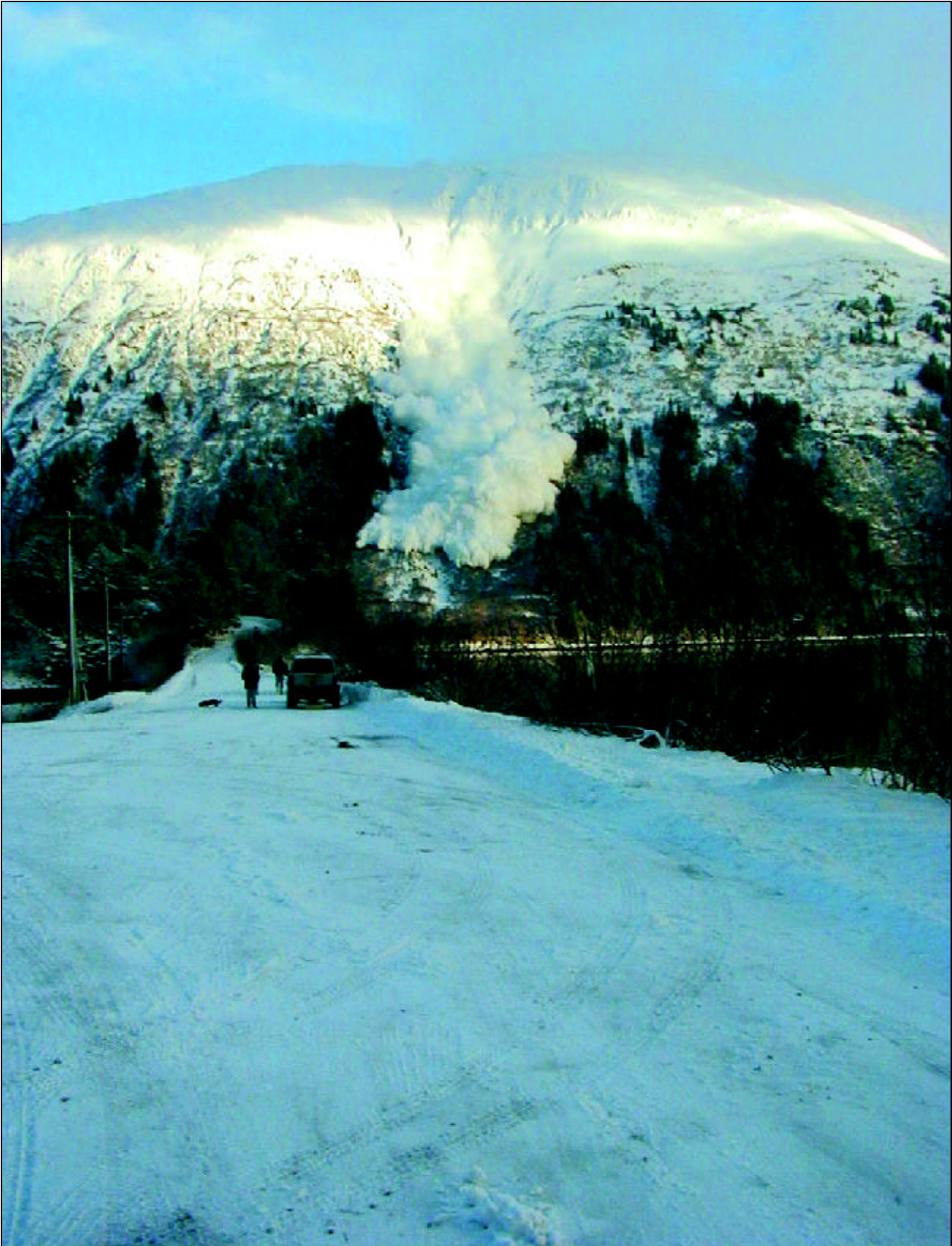


Photo courtesy of the Alaska's Department of Transportation

Above: An avalanche triggered by one of Alaska's Department of Transportation 105mm cannons is cleaned up by bulldozers to allow traffic to resume once again.

Above Right: Workers from Cost Work Center 729 inspect the 105mm M101A1 Howitzer one last time before it goes to the customer. Repairs were instrumental to the weapons' operational safety while firing.

Right: This avalanche was caused by a high-explosive round from a 105mm M101A1 Howitzer Cannon. State governments like Alaska's Department of Transportation use the cannons to keep their roads safe for motorists.

Highways, ski
slopes stay safe
with 105mm...

Avalanche Busters

By Lance Cpl. Josh Carmona
Combat Correspondent

A fearsome and deafening blast thunders over the morning horizon, the mountains around pine meadows shake from its fierce power. The echo of the blast fades away into silence and is replaced by a steadily-growing rumble, the avalanche has begun.

Artillery is a powerful force in protecting troops in combat, but it also protects the American people from avalanches which can be fatal if not prevented.

Rock Island Arsenal, owned and operated by the Army, leases the 105mm M101A1 Howitzer to state governments and private companies for avalanche control. The M101A1 Howitzer was first produced in 1941 and was used in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to protect Marines in battle, has been replaced by the M198 Howitzer, according to the USMC Fact Files. The

replaced weaponry is now used to protect skiers, snowboarders, drivers and trains on the home-front. The old cannons could have been a danger to use, but because of the work done by Cost Work Center 729, they are refurbished and ready to use.

Greg Patz, chief of maintenance and operations for Southeast Region, Alaska Department of Transportation, uses the howitzer cannons, like the ones refurbished at Maintenance Center Barstow for avalanche control.

Precautions such as highway closures, public announcements, and aircraft warnings are made before the howitzer is fired. They use a 105mm artillery shell to rock the mountain and trigger an avalanche. The Alaska DOT fires the Howitzer three times a year to prevent casualties due to the dangerous and awesome power of avalanches, said Patz.

The cannons recently refurbished at Maintenance Center Barstow, were leased to various state governments

throughout the United States. Colorado's Department of Transportation received two, as did Utah and Alaska's Department of Transportation, and Alaska's Railroad, said Kevin Barnett, the program manager for Small Arms & Artillery, MCB.

State governments were not the only buyers of the cannons; also companies whose slopes rely on an accurate tool to deliver explosives to mountains for avalanche control use the howitzers.

Brian Strait, president and general manager of the Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort said the two cannons he received from the maintenance center were, "Extremely effective."

Strait said the cannons dated back to 1943, but after they came out of the Barstow maintenance center they looked new.

"I couldn't believe it, the weapons are 64-years-old, the level of workmanship was spectacular," said Strait.

Barnett attributes the cannon's workmanship to the employees.

"They take great pride in that they save people's lives. Barstow puts out a quality product, because that's just what we do," said Barnett.

According to Barnett, his team did so well on the weapons; the Commander along with the Deputy Commander of MCB wants to see if Canada is interested in using the weapons for avalanche control as well.

"We can get one done in 30 to 45 days, but in emergency situations, a cannon can be completed in two and a half weeks," said Barnett.

Barnett also stated that MCLB Barstow is the only Maintenance Center in the Department of Defense that provides the howitzers for avalanche prevention.

Barnett said the quality workmanship on the howitzers is not uncommon for his team.

"They're professionals, and they care about their product whether it goes to protect Marines and Soldiers or someone else," said Barnett.



Personnel from Alaska's Department of Transportation ready a 105mm cannon to use for avalanche control to keep highways cleared. They are firing from Douglas Island, one mile away from their mountain target.

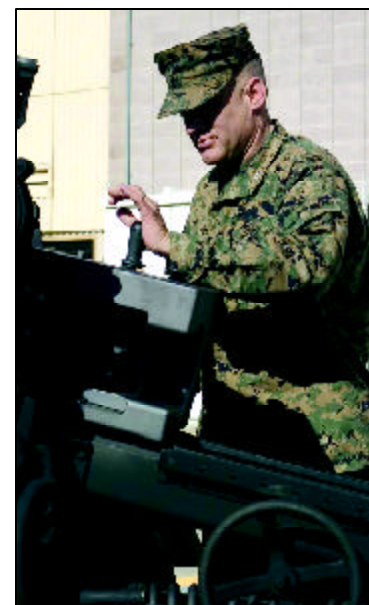


Photo by Curt Lambert

Col. Scott A. Dalke, commanding officer, Maintenance Center Barstow, inspects a piece of Marine Corps history. The 105mm howitzer cannon was used in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Photo courtesy of the Alaska's Department of Transportation

CHAPLAIN from Page 2

and if they were briefed at all on a mission, it was done without the white pilots in the room.

In spite of the setbacks, the 332nd became the desired escort for bombers. On bombing raids, the pilots would specifically ask for them.

One white pilot described their talent like this, "The P-38s always stayed too far out. Some of the Mustang group stayed in too close ... Other groups, we got the feeling that they just wanted to go and shoot down 109s ... The Red Tails were always out there where we wanted them to be ... We had no idea they were Black; it was the Army's best kept secret."

The Fighting Red Tails flew over 15,000 sorties during the war destroying 111 German planes in the air and 150 on the ground. Over 150 railcars were destroyed and one pilot actually single handedly sank a German destroyer with his machine gun fire. Over 850 medals were earned including 150 Distinguished Flying

Crosses, 8 Purple Hearts, 14 Bronze Stars, and the highest award a unit can receive, the Presidential Unit Citation. What started as a secret "experiment", became an example of courage. Thirty-two of these brave men were captured and 66 of them gave their lives. All of this was done to protect the constitution of a nation that guaranteed them certain rights; rights that many living in the United States never enjoyed because of the color of their skin.

Often in life we feel mistreated, or taken advantage of, and no one could have felt this more than the pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group. But, much can be learned from them. Often what is important is not your actions, but your reactions to certain situations. The pilots of the 332nd epitomized the biblical principle of returning goodness for evil.

Throughout the scriptures there is a lot of instruction on this concept. Romans 12:17, encourages man to not pay back evil for evil, but to be good to someone even when they purposely do you

harm. Matthew 5:11, says to bless those that persecute you. Now, this concept is not easy to accomplish, but it's important because you never know what kind of an impact you may have on someone by just returning kindness for their maliciousness.

After all, do you not think you have been shown kindness before, even when you mistreated someone? We horribly mistreat the Savior of the world everyday. We don't talk to Him like we should, we don't trust Him like He has asked us, but yet He promises to stick closer to us than our own brother (Proverbs 18:24). Even when we mistreat him, he loves us in spite of our shortcomings.

We would all do well to learn a lesson from the brave men of the 332nd Fighter Group. Even when you are mistreated, the braver thing is not to return the evil done to you, but to return the deed with kindness. And, "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32)

Science!



Photo by Cpl. Quentin Grogan

Sgt. Luis Castillo, ammunition technician grades science projects done by third graders from Skyline North Elementary School. This was the first of seven science fairs that Marines will be grading.

MAYOR from Page 1

neighborhoods.

The rise in volunteers for Ramadi’s police force has been seen as a testament to the dedication of local residents in protecting their city.

“The tribal leaders bring their family into the police force, in the face of an insurgency, because they believe in fighting those who come from outside the city to force evil on its residents,” said Mayor Latif.

Mayor Latif claims the people of Ramadi have grown sick of “paying the price” of the insurgents, leading to the rise in support.

With the renewed support of the people and growing security forces, Mayor Latif is confident Ramadi will continue to progress with time.

“The city has come a long way, but we need time to do more,” said Mayor Latif. “God willing, we will return the life to this city.”

FALLUJAH from Page 5

there made me like the Marine Corps even more, because we don’t cower down from anyone,” said Muniz.

During his first tour in Fallujah, which seven months, Marines were going house to house, clearing them out, checking for insurgents and talking to any civilians there to get information, said Muniz.

“The civilians were really nice and helpful,” said Muniz.

The second go around for Muniz was different during OIF 5-7. Instead of having to clear out the city of insurgents, the mission was to rebuild the city and train the Iraqi Army, he said.

“The second time was just in support, because our battalion was training the Iraqi Army,” said Muniz.

This time in Fallujah, he was attached to 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and instead of seven months, he was there for eight months.

Going back again, as a corporal, Muniz had thoughts of the first time he was there and how it was going to be a repeat of the first time.

With every mortar hit came flashbacks of the first time he was there.

“It was more calmed down the second time,” said Muniz.

Part of the mission was training the Iraqi Army.

“The Iraqi Army was somewhat helpful,” he said. “They were just starting their training so it was hard for them.”

“I was out with the [Civil Affairs Group], and we went to their base and they had just got a new unit of Iraqi soldiers that had come in on pick up trucks,” he added.

The battalion was going through a changeover with the Iraqi Army. The Marines would set up a military base and turn it over to the Iraqi’s to help build up their strength.

According to Muniz, the Iraqi Army was building in numbers and going on more patrols as the Marines were slowly transitioning out of the city.

As for the opposition this time, they were still doing the same cowardly tactics, “but we overcame and adapted” said Muniz.

“We kicked [butt] and took names,” said Muniz.

For Muniz, who recently reenlisted, Fallujah is something he will not forget. He went to Iraq as ordered, performed his duties, and

came home.

INDONESIA from Page 6

and Education budget for Indonesian officers was about \$1 million for fiscal 2007 and is expected to rise next year, defense officials said.

Pace also discussed Iraq with Indonesian leaders. He said that if the coalition left Iraq before the government could stand on its own two feet, the consequences could be a disaster.

He said such a pull-out “could very well encourage terrorists around the world.”

He said this is not a direct linkage, “but clearly any time that free nations stand together and assist others that are trying to be free, that works against terrorists worldwide, and any time we step back from the obligation works to the benefit of terrorists.”

Pace expressed his satisfaction with the U.S.-Indonesian relationship. “I’m very comfortable with the relationship that exists right now between Indonesia and the United States and especially with the relationship between the U.S. armed forces and the Indonesian military,” he said.



Holiday Hours

Holiday hours for President's Day this Monday is as follows:

- Marine Corps Exchange**
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Tees and Trees Golf Course**
Sunrise to sunset.
- Oasis Club**
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Temporary Lodging Facility**
8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Base Gym**
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All other MCCS Facilities are closed for the holiday. The Auto Skills Center and Wood/Rock Shop will be closed Sunday to observe the holiday.

Sports Officials

Semper Fit is in need of a few good people willing to volunteer their time for officiating basketball, flag football and soccer events.

For more information please contact James Amos, Sports Coordinator at (760) 577-6812 or DSN 282-6812. You may also e-mail him at amosjw@usmc-mccs.org.

- Volleyball standings as of Feb. 8
 - Fire Department: 2 - 0
 - Strikers: 0 - 1
 - The Dream Team: 0 - 1

Texas Hold Em' Poker
Registration is now being held for the upcoming 2nd Tournament of 2007,

scheduled for March 16, with a Saint Patrick's Day theme. Games start at 6 p.m. at the Oasis Club. Buy in will be \$20 for early registration and \$25 at the door. Sign ups will be available at the Family Restaurant, Oasis Club, Temporary Lodging Facility, Lanzer's Lounge, or Building 319, MCCS Administration. All MCLB patrons and their sponsored guests over the age of 21 are invited to attend.

For more information or if you have any questions please contact 577-6372.

Safety Orientation Classes

The Wood/Rock Shop is hosting an orientation and safety class this Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

For more information, or to reserve your place, contact Tim Fernandez at 577-6692.

Family Dining Night

Tonight at the Oasis Club, there will be fried chicken, and we will feature pork spare ribs Feb. 22 at the Family Restaurant. Make Family Dining Night a traditional night out, and let us do the dishes.

For more information, contact marketing at 577-6428.

MLK Display

In honor of African-American History Month, the base library has a Martin Luther King Jr. Exhibit on display throughout February.

For more information contact Robin Cross-Walker at 577-6395.

LUNCH MENU

Family Restaurant

- Today** - Baked potato and salad bar.
- Friday** - Fish of the day, fried rice, and vegetables.

Monday - Holiday Hours 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Order A la Carte.

Tuesday - Pork stir fry, steamed jasmine rice, and additional vegetables.

Wednesday - Pastrami sandwich on rye or sourdough, regular or seasoned fries, and cucumber salad.

Salads and Sub Sandwiches - A variety of pre-made daily items are available in the front display refrigerator.

Lanzer's Lounge

Manager's Special featured daily.
Included with every meal is a roll and fountain drink, unless otherwise stated.

MISC For Sale; Solid Wood Fire-place, ventless, Mahagony with at-tached book shelves, uses Jel Fuel, has logs and screen. Call: 253-5926

MISC Solid Wood Fireplace, ventless, Med Cherry with doors in side cabinet, has two matching book shelves. Uses Jel Fuel, has logs and screen. Call: 253-5926

MISC 32" LCD flat screen television, HDTV ready, stereo sound speak-ers. Call: 253-5926

MISC Two 17" computer monitors \$60 each. Call: 760-256-2434 or 760-784-4089.

MISC Gaffers and Statler Stove \$100 OBO as is. Gaffers and Statler Dishwasher \$100 OBO. Dining Room Table w/4 chairs, excellent condition \$100. Call 252-0294

TOY HAULER 2005 Eclipse Attitude Toy Hauler. 23 Ft., A/C, T.V./DVD, microwave, Fridge, 3 burner stove. Sleeps 6-8, with fuel tank. Take over payments. Call 253-2858